

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1523
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2007
WELFARE SCHEME FOR TOBACCO WORKERS
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has implemented or proposes to implement any welfare scheme for the benefit of farmers and workers involved in the tobacco and other allied industries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)&(b) The Government through Tobacco Board has been implementing the following extension and developmental schemes envisaging on outlay of Rs 8.52 crore in 2007-08 to enable the tobacco growers to improve their incomes:-

- a) Farm Mechanization,
- b) Improvement of yield and quality of tobacco,
- c) Improvement of curing practices,
- d) Other Extension Programmes,
- e) On farm tests & experimental trials,
- f) Model Project Area and
- g) Alternate uses of tobacco

Other measures include arranging input loans at 5.80 to 6.25% interest, supply of inputs like viz., fertilizers, pesticides, coco-peat medium, etc., at competitive prices to growers, curometers to SC/ST and women growers free of cost and financial assistance (subsidy) to the farmers for fixing Venturi furnace in their barns.

The Board is facilitating coverage under social welfare schemes like Group Personal Accident Policy and Barn & stock Insurance Policies of willing registered tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh and has implemented Group Term Life Insurance Scheme for 38366 registered growers. It has also been extending financial assistance by way of compensation to growers affected by natural calamities.

- (c) Does not arise.